Lesson AHS.53

SAE PROGRAMS AND FFA'S PROFICIENCY AWARDS

Unit. Component of Agriculture Education

Problem Area. Supervised Agriculture Experience

Precepts.

National Standards. NL-ENG.K-12.8 — Students use a variety of technological and information resources to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.

☑ **Student Learning Objectives.** As a result of this lesson, the student will …

1 Identify potential rewards and honors for quality SAEs.

2 Locate applications, handbooks, and support materials for competition in the proficiency awards program, and become aware of support resources for facilitating the completion of quality applications for the proficiency awards program.

3 List the categories of proficiency.

Time. Instruction time for this lesson: 50 minutes.

Resources

Local Program Resource Guide 2002–2003 or later version.

National FFA Organization Website. www.ffa.org

Tools, Equipment, and Supplies

✓ Writing surface
✓ Personal computer including Adobe Reader, Microsoft Office, or Word, Excel, and PowerPoint software—one each per student or group
✓ Computer projector
✓ A list of proficiency awards sponsored by FFA and definitions from the *Agriculture Proficiency Awards Handbook*—one copy per student
✓ AHS.53.Assess—one per student

Interest Approach

Prior to beginning this unit, students should have learned about SAEs, have planned and implemented an SAE, and have started keeping records of receipts, disbursements, assets, liabilities, hours, skills, competencies, activities, scholarship participation, and leadership participation.

Briefly review these concepts by using a <u>Jeopardy Moment</u>. Play the game for a few minutes after they come up with questions and answers in these categories: balance sheets, inventories, leadership activities, and competencies or skills.

Students, using an answer and question dialogue, take turns asking each other about SAE experiences.

Example: Answer—this is the subject of the SAE that allowed me to become a better overall employee. Question—what is a competency or skills SAE?

Allow three minutes for this activity.

Objective 1. Identify potential rewards and honors for quality SAEs.

    I.   Potential rewards and honors for quality SAEs

Connect to what the students shared in the review by explaining the benefits and rewards of a quality SAE program. It could sound something like the following:

Each of you has developed a quality SAE; has kept records of your experiences, receipts, disbursements, assets and liabilities; and has learned skills or competencies. This effort has been rewarded through improved grades, an increase in your own value as an employee, an increase in value of your enterprise, or from all three. Today, you will find out about another way to recognize your successes and achievement. The National FFA Organization has a program, which was developed specifically for this purpose. The Agricultural Proficiency Award program was developed to recognize students at local, state, and national levels for their progress toward establishing a career in their chosen field of agriculture. The process uses an application, which summarizes your SAE program by asking for your SAE initial plans, the status of your current SAE, as well as your SAE future plans. Further, the application asks for the skills you have obtained and includes analysis of the development and management of your SAE program.

Awards provided by the National FFA Organization include: local medals and certificates for chapter winners, $100 checks and certificates for state winners, $250 and a plaque for each of four national finalists, and $250 and a plaque for one national winner in each area. Also, one of the national finalists in each category receives an international agricultural experience tour in another country. This has been in Costa Rica recently and various European countries previously.

Challenge the students to list on a piece of paper all of the benefits and awards available to them for their SAE programs. Give them a time limit of 60 seconds to complete this task.

You have 60 seconds to list on a piece of paper all of the benefits and awards available to you for your SAE programs.

After time is up, ask students for examples. Capture all of their answers on the writing surface.

Objective 2. Locate applications, handbooks, and support materials for competition in the proficiency awards program, and become aware of support resources for facilitating the completion of quality applications for the proficiency awards program.

    II.   SAE incentive programs of the FFA

🗣 Let's take a look at the National Local Program Resource CD-ROM and view some of the critical resources for the application process and award program.

Place the CD-ROM in the computer with the projector on; when the home page is visible, click on "FFA" from the menu list of local program success strategies. Scroll down the alphabetical list of resources to the proficiency related items.

🗣 Open the *Proficiency Award Handbook.* The *Agricultural Proficiency Award Handbook* is a complete technical support guide to the proficiency award program. Here you can find information on every aspect of the application, and the appendix of the handbook includes sample applications, score sheets, and other scoring and supportive information needed to successfully complete your applications.

Close the handbook and open the proficiency application for placement candidates—available in Spanish and English and in both Macintosh and PC format.

🗣 Here is the application for those who work for wages, work as a volunteer, conduct improvement programs, or conduct research-based SAEs. You will first notice that the application opens to a short page of instructions; please read through these before beginning an application, as this will keep you from a lot of frustration that could arise if you do not follow directions.

🗣 For instance, before beginning an application, you must make a copy of that application, as the form we are looking at is on the CD-ROM and cannot be changed. You can see that the bottom of the page allows you to click on tabs to get from page to page. You can also see that each page includes directions, instructions, and hints that may assist you in completing the application.

Next open the entrepreneurship application and show the similarities of the instructions, tabs, and hints. Now close the entrepreneurship application and open any one of the sample applications.

🗣 The CD-ROM includes examples of past national award winning applications, which will be useful resources for you to refer to when developing your own applications. These examples are actual, winning applications for a variety of areas. You may wish to review several, as you will see that there are numerous ways to complete applications.

Now close the example, but show the list of examples contained in the CD-ROM that you are using.

🗣 You can see the list of categories whose recent national winners are included on the CD-ROM. Remember that while your category may not appear here, there are similar categories which will still give you a guideline for developing your award application.

Now open any one of the technical proficiency award tips for working with Excel found on the application.

🗣 The National FFA Organization has also included some technical assistance tips for working with Microsoft Excel, which is the software program that runs the applications. You are all not necessarily proficient in operating this software and at times, certain functions may impede your use

of the program. If you are having problems with the software, please check to see if the issue you are trying to resolve is addressed in these tips on the CD-ROM.

Close the tip and the CD-ROM and ask....

🗣 What could you do if you were completing an application and you needed some assistance?

Allow students to answer, but anticipated responses are that they can ask each other and you, their advisor, as a starting point.

🗣 What would you do if the advisor and classmates could not definitely answer your questions?

Allow students to answer, but they should mention the handbook and resources on the CD-ROM, as well as specialists in agricultural education and FFA at state and national levels.

🗣 The National FFA Organization is always willing to answer questions regarding completion of applications. In the case of proficiency awards, you can e-mail to: proficiency@ffa.org. You will receive an answer, usually within one day of submitting the question. It is best to include your contact information in the e-mail, so that they can easily contact you by means other than e-mail should they need more information to answer completely.

Objective 3. List the categories of proficiency.

   III.   Range and definitions of proficiency categories

🗣 The proficiency award program offers recognition in career categories, which are established and reviewed every five years. Proficiency awards sponsored annually change slightly, but all SAE program types have proficiency areas for which they can be applied and recognized. The categories offered each year are determined through available sponsorship and competition. The annual list of areas being offered can be found on the National FFA Organization website—www.ffa.org. In 2003, there were a total of 48 awards categories.

🗣 Let's take a look at the proficiency award handbook to get an idea of the potential categories for proficiency awards in this five-year cycle.

Stress that each of the categories listed could be offered as a combined area recognizing placement and entrepreneurship programs competing against each other, or they could be split into two separate categories where placement programs and entrepreneurial programs would compete separately for recognition.

🗣 Now that you know the potential categories that could be offered, let's look at the website, www.ffa.org, to see a list of which categories are sponsored and offered this year.

Have students review the list and identify sponsored categories for which they could be eligible—some students may only be eligible for one category while others, particularly those with very diverse SAEs, could be eligible for ten or more different categories. Have students share their findings with the class. Encourage students to ask questions regarding their classmates'

choices, and ask questions to help them clarify the selection of the categories they chose. Have each student develop a list of potential proficiency award categories for his or her SAE.

On a sheet of paper, with your name at the top, develop a list of potential proficiency award categories, for your SAE, from the ones available on the FFA website.

Allow five minutes for this activity.

Review/Summary

As a review, hand out copies of the lists of proficiency awards sponsored and the definitions from the Agricultural Proficiency Awards Handbook. Place the students in pairs and have them exchange their personal lists of categories. Encourage them to interview each other and have each student rate each category from one to five based on their feeling as to how well the SAE or at least one of its parts fits within the definition of the category.

In pairs, review your lists with each other and then rate each category from one to five based on your feeling as to how well the SAE or at least one of its parts fits within the definition of the category.

Allow three minutes for this activity.

Ask students about the awards available at different levels, local, state, and national. Insert additional incentives that may be provided by your local chapter and alumni, as well as those available at the state level that are supplemental to the nationally available incentives.

At this time pass out AHS.53.Assess.

Application

▶ **Extended Classroom Activity:**

Have students select at least one category of proficiency for which they are eligible and complete that application for competition above the local level.

▶ **FFA Activity:**

Same as Extended Classroom Activity—fully integral activity

▶ **SAE Activity:**

Same as Extended Classroom Activity—fully integral activity

✓ Evaluation

AHS.53.Assess

Submit completed agricultural proficiency award applications for recognition at local, area, state, and national levels sharing the ratings and results at each level with the students and through local media outlets.

Answers to Assessment:

1. The agricultural proficiency award program

2. 37 are listed in the 2001 *Agricultural Proficiency Award Handbook*

3. Local Program Resource CD-ROM

4. proficiency@ffa.org

5. $600 plus any local and state award that is available—$100 state winner, $250 national finalist, $250 national winner makes up the $600

Name: _____

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FFA'S PROFICIENCY AWARDS

1. What is the name of the National FFA Organization award and incentive program for recognizing quality Supervised Agricultural Experience programs of its members within identified career categories?

2. How many career categories are listed in the current *Agricultural Proficiency Award Handbook?*

3. Where would you find electronic copies of agricultural proficiency award program materials?

4. To what e-mail address would you send proficiency award questions?

5. What would be your total monetary award for becoming a local, state, and national proficiency award winner?